[16th July 1953

"(d) The gruel centres were closed on account of the improvement in the seasonal conditions at the time of closure."

Cost of living index for the working class.

* 578 Q.—Sri S. PAKKIRISWAMI PILLAI : Will the Hon. the Chief Minister be pleased to state—

(a) the cost of living index for working class for the month of December 1952, the month of January 1953 and February 1953; and

(b) whether the Government have ascertained the probable causes for the sudden increase in the cost of living index?

The Hon. Sri C. RAJAGOPALACHARI :—" (a) The cost of living index numbers for working classes in Madras City for the months of December 1952, January 1953 and February 1953 were 327, 327 and 351, respectively.

" (b) Yes, Sir. The Government are aware of the causes for the rise in the cost of living index. It is mainly due to the fixing of the price of rice in fair price shops, at about As. 12–6 whereas previously it was 10 annas. The price in February was fixed on a basis already fully explained on the floor of the House. As against this the price of wheat broken and issued at fair price shops was 10 annas to As. 10–6 only. This wheat is as easily cooked as rice and would be of much higher nutritional value and would have brought the index down and maintained it at the January level."

Reports and Government Orders regarding irrigation projects.

* 579 Q.—Sri C. SUBBARAYUDU : Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(a) whether copies of all reports relating to and Government Orders sanctioning irrigation project schemes are placed in the Legislature Library; and

(b) whether the Government have provided any other alternative source accessible to the Legislators to have the benefit of those reports and Government Orders?

The Hon. Sri N. RANGA REDDI :—" (a) This is not being done.

" (b) The Madras Information, the State Administration Reports Parts I and II, and the Administration Reports of the Irrigation Department Parts II-A and B, copies of which are supplied to the Legislature Library give information about the Irrigation projects sanctioned, their cost, etc. If any Member requires further specific information about sanctioned schemes, he can obtain them from the Government or the Chief Engineers concerned."